
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE # 5

On March 22, the Sitka Sound herring sac roe fishery was opened in northwest Sitka Sound from 1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Preliminary hauls from processors put the total harvest at 4,500 tons. The area opened included the waters of Krestof Sound, north of the latitude of Rob Point and west of a line from Partof Point at 57°13.69' N. latitude, 135°34.15' W. longitude, to Olga Point at 57°13.72' N. latitude, 135°32.19' W. longitude. The opening was based on three samples taken from the area with the following results: Rob Point, 11.4% mature roe, 2.2% immature roe, 115 gram average weight; Port Krestof, 10.4% mature roe, 3.7% immature roe, 115 gram average weight; and Mud Bay, 12.7% mature roe, 0.0% immature roe, 122 gram average weight.

Yesterday's aerial survey covered Sitka Sound north of Eastern Channel. No spawn was observed. Herring were observed in the bays of south Middle Island and along Kasiana Island. Herring predator activity was concentrated in northern Sitka Sound from Inner Point to Hayward Strait, in Krestof Sound, and west of the Chaichei Islands and Bieli Rock. Little activity was observed in areas south of Sitka.

For today, plans are to stand down on seeking a fishing opportunity to allow for processing of yesterday's harvest. Fishery participants should expect another fishery on Friday, March 24, depending on results of roe sampling, vessel and aerial surveys.

Until further notice, fishermen wanting to make practice sets or stretch nets may do so in Eastern Channel.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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